

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A crash barrier assembly, comprising:
a plurality of prismatic, solid structural elements, at least one of said elements having a shoulder forming two vertical surfaces and a horizontal surface on at least one of its sides, and another element having substantially matching surfaces on at least one of its sides so as to facilitate juxtaposing of said elements, and
a coupling ~~[[means]] structure for interconnecting~~ which interconnects said elements to each other in a manner facilitating relative controlled movement along the horizontal surface of one element with respect to the other about said coupling means, and
energy-absorbing material associated with at least one of said elements, providing a controllable elasticity upon impact.
2. (Original) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said elements are generally trapezoidal in shape.
3. (Currently amended) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coupling ~~[[means]] structure~~ constitute a rod interconnecting two juxtaposed elements and traversing said horizontal surface.
4. (Previously presented) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein said rod is at least partly embedded in said energy-absorbing material located within at least one of said elements.
5. (Currently amended) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said energy-absorbing material is selected from the group comprising neoprene, rubber, ~~teflon~~ Teflon®, metallic sponge, a metal spring or springs, or hydraulic fluid.

6. (Currently amended) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein said coupling ~~[[means]]~~ structure further comprises a cup-lined bore in said horizontal surface, into which said rod extends.
7. (Original) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein said rod is tubular, facilitating the introduction therein of fluid.
8. (Original) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 7, said rod further comprising:
a removable plug for the introduction of hydraulic fluid, and a seal for sealing off said cup.
9. (Original) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein said plug is a pressure-sensitive plug.
10. (Currently amended) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coupling ~~[[means]]~~ structure comprises at least one resilient member selected from the group of T-shaped members or curved leaf spring members, which members are flat plate members inserted in a slot interconnecting two adjacently disposed elements.
11. (Previously presented) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the upper edge of said rod further comprises a thread and there is further provided a cap screwable onto said thread against the force of a spring disposed between said cap and an upper surface of said element.
12. (Original) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein said rod is formed with integral anchoring members.
13. (Original) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein said rod is formed at its lower portion with a multi-sided body.
14. (Original) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein the lower portion of said rod is introduced in a cup, at least partly closed at its upper end and a compression spring is disposed between said multi-sided body and the upper closed end of said cup.

15. (Previously presented) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said energy-absorbing material is affixed on one or both of the vertical surfaces of said shoulder.

16. (Previously presented) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said energy-absorbing material is introduced in a groove formed in at least one of the vertical surfaces of said shoulder.

17. (Previously presented) The crash barrier assembly as claimed in claim 16, wherein said energy-absorbing material has a reinforcing spring embedded therein.

18. (Currently amended) A method for erecting a crash barrier, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a plurality of elements according to claim 1;
- juxtaposing at least two of said elements, and
- interconnecting said elements by coupling [[means]] structure traversing the horizontal surfaces of said elements.

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

- forming a bore in at least one of said horizontal surfaces ;
- introducing said energy-absorbing material into said bore, and
- inserting a rod in said material.

20. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said rod is tubular, said method further comprising the steps of:

- introducing energy-absorbing fluid into said tubular rod, and
- closing said rod at its top with a plug.

21. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said interconnecting [[means]] structure comprise a cap and said rod is provided at its upper end with a thread and the method further comprising the step of screwing the cap onto the upper edge of the rod against the force of a spring interposed between the cap and upper surface of an element.

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising the step of affixing said energy-absorbing body onto the vertical surface of at least one element.

23. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising the step of introducing a resilient member in a slot formed in a vertical surface of at least one element.